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a keen appreciation of the value of elementary meteorology as a disciplinary study, and of the importance of the subject in everyday life, the authors of the present volume have given us a well-arranged outline of the work which may be undertaken during nine years of the school course. From the simplest weather observations the scholar is led on through the graphic presentation of his data to the study of the daily weather maps—a logical order which, under the guidance of a good teacher, cannot fail to interest the children. The book is, of course, especially adapted for use in German, but the general scheme of work might be followed anywhere with distinct advantage. R. DEC. WARD.

Compendium of Mathematical, Physical and Political Geography.

[In Yiddish.] By Alexander Harkavy. Vol. I, xv and 358 pp. Vol. II, xii and 414 pp. Ills., index. Hebrew Publishing Co., New York, 1911. \$1. 8 x 5½.

This elementary geographical work is in many respects exceptional, even unique. It is written not only in a very peculiar language, a Judeo-German dialect, commonly called Yiddish (also Jargon), and spoken at present by about three-fourths of the Jewish people, but also with quite a different object than the usual elementary geographies in any other living language. The author had in view grown-up people, fathers and mothers, but not school children. In his preface he calls attention to the exceptional condition of the Yiddish literature, that "while it is relatively rich in compilations on speculative subjects, on history, political economy, philosophy, etc., it is very poor in works on elementary knowledge, which is the foundation of education and a necessary introduction to such high subjects." Then he adds that there is an especial lack in writings on elementary geographical subjects in Yiddish.

This is remarkable indeed. It seems incredible to a stranger, not only to a Gentile, but even to a Jew who is not familiar with the Yiddish literature. Mr. Harkavy, who is well known among Jews as an author of educational books, especially of dictionaries, gives one, the most important explanation of this striking fact, when he says in his preface that "in compiling this geography the author took into consideration that the persons who would make use of it will have to be their own teachers, and he, therefore, arranged it on broader lines than geographies for school, adapted specially for such of our people as did not receive the ordinary elementary education in public schools."

At any rate, credit must be given to Mr. Harkavy for his efforts to compile not only an elementary geography for grown-up people, but to use such popular expressions as to be understood by persons who have no more knowledge of geography than their children, when they begin to learn in schools this most necessary and useful subject. Let the reader imagine a geography, written for such English-speaking folk as have never attended public school, never been taught elementary geography, history, grammar, or even arithmetic, and he will understand what difficulties Mr. Harkavy had to overcome in his work. Very often he has had to coin new terms, to create new expressions. Mr. Harkavy made use of quite a number of geographies in the different languages which he masters. He had in view mostly Yiddish readers in United States, Canada and English-speaking countries generally, as the English words in parentheses show. Of the two volumes the first contains the mathematical, cosmographic and physical parts. The second volume is devoted to political geography, the United States occupying the first and most prominent space. It is a very useful book for Yiddish readers. JACOB ROMBRO.

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

A Commentary on Herodotus. With Introduction and Appendices by W. W. How and J. Wells. Vol. I (Books I-IV), xii and 446 pp.; maps. Vol. II (Books V-IX), viii and 423 pp.; maps. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1912. \$2.50 for each vol. 7½ x 5½ each.

In connection with the academic end to which the volumes of this commentary are addressed the authorities upon classical studies will pass judgment